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**GEORGIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN \$200,000
NEW HAMPSHIRE IDENTITY THEFT AND MAIL FRAUD SCHEME**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that Demetrius Edmond, of Columbus, Georgia, pleaded guilty to mail fraud and identify theft in United States District Court in Concord, New Hampshire.

According to statements made by a prosecutor during a court hearing, Edmond, age 23, committed the mail and identity fraud offenses by causing several federally insured banks to transfer \$236,000 from unsuspecting legitimate account holders accounts into 19 separate certificate of deposit accounts he had established, through the Internet, at Providian Bank, a federally insured bank located in Tilton, New Hampshire. In perpetrating these frauds, he used another person's name and social security number without that person's authority or knowledge.

Edmond is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Court Chief Judge Paul J. Barbadoro on June 27, 2003. The defendant faces a maximum statutory prison sentence of 33 years and a maximum fine of \$1.25 million.

After Edmond pleaded guilty, U.S. Attorney Colantuono said, "This case is one of the first convictions we have seen from a new initiative put in place by the United States Postal Inspection Service designed to seek out and prosecute those who engage in white collar fraud through identity theft." Assistant U. S. Attorney Arnold Huftalen prosecuted this case.